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S E C R E T MANILA 003771

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/16/2015

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SUBJECT: AFP RECOVERS/SEEKS TO IDENTIFY TERRORIST REMAINS
IN MINDANAO

REF: MANILA 2105

Classified By: (U) Political Officer Paul O'Friel
for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

1. (S/NF) Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) units recovered on August 11 in the vicinity of Datu Odin, Sinsuat in the Mindanao province of Maguindanao the remains of a terrorist killed in an engagement a month earlier with AFP troops tracking Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leader Khadaffy Janjalani. AFP intelligence sources had indicated the unburied body may be either that of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) bomber Umar Patek, or ASG member Hamad Idris. The AFP has provided a tissue sample from the corpse to SIMO, which is attempting to match the sample's DNA with that of one of Patek's relatives.

2. (S/NF) We have received conflicting reports that either or both Idris and Patek may be dead (despite local press reports stating definitively that Patek was killed.) It will take some time to determine the identity of the body and Idris' and Patek's true fate. The AFP's 6th Infantry Division, Scout Rangers, and Light Reaction Companies continue the hunt in Maguindanao for Janjalani, JI bomber Dulmatin, and other senior members of the ASG still at large.

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